

**Alabama Child Death Review System
State Team Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2006**

State Team Members

Present:

Robert Brissie
Jean Brown
Hoyt Childs, Jr.
Frank DeGraffenried
Bill English
Gerone Grant
Jim Grigg
James Hayes
Steve Lafreniere
James Lauridson
Holley Midgley
Mike O'Dell
Shirley Scanlan
Michael Taylor
Randy Thomas
Bobby Timmons
Olga White
Don Williamson

Absent:

Sharron Richard Denman
Gerald Dial
Tara Johnson
Larry Means
Mike Millican
Taylor Noggle
Jay Wolf

Guests/Staff Present:

Richard Burluson
Chris Haag
Bob Hinds
Bob Johnston
Melissa Khan
Bill King
Tarina Moores
Cheryl Outland
Dianne Sims
Al Stone
Albert Woolbright
Nancy Wright

Call to Order

On February 16, 2006 at 1:00PM on the campus of Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM), in Montgomery, Alabama the Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) State Team meeting was called to order for its required quarterly meeting. Mr. Bob Hinds, Director, ACDRS called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Later Dr. Donald E. Williamson added his welcome to those assembled.

Guest Speakers

Dr. Bill King, Director, Southeast Child Safety Center, spoke to the Team about his organization and the alarming consequences of the loss of funding for the Alabama Child Safety Seat Program. Dr. King's bottom line was that, in a state where the number one accidental killer of our children is traffic accidents, we should be doing all we can to protect our children while they are riding in automobiles. The loss of funding for this program has severely handicapped our ability to insure the safety of our infants. The decision to stop the funding of this program was essentially done unilaterally. Dr. King recommends that in the future all decisions which will have such a profound effect on child safety be made on the basis of the Public Health model of decision making. In other words he recommends that all interested parties be involved in making these decisions so all alternatives may be explored for continuing to provide these important services before they are completely cut out.

Ms. Nancy Wright, Director, Injury Education Branch, Injury Prevention Division, ADPH, spoke to the State Team about the work her branch does in combating infant and child injuries throughout our State. This topic is important to the ACDRS because our State Law requires the ACDRS to "...decrease the risk and incidence of unexpected/unexplained child **injury** and death..." We are making significant progress on the infant/child death side of that requirement, but have very little to show on the injury side of the requirement. We have recently started talking to Ms. Wright about combining our efforts to attack the problem of infant/child injury in Alabama.

Unfinished Business –

Minutes of Last Meeting

A quorum of members being present the minutes of the November 2005 meeting was approved as written.

State Team Membership Update

The State Team continues to have three vacant Governor Appointments with no word on when they might be filled. Three additional Governor Appointments will be vacant in November 2006. In addition, Dr. Michael Taylor and Mr. Holley Midgely reached the end of two consecutive terms and must be replaced on the State Team. Dr. Cheryl Outland has been appointed to replace Dr. Taylor; however, no replacement has been named for Mr. Midgely. In addition, Dr. Jim Lauridson has reached the end of his term of office but is eligible to continue on for a second term if re-appointed by the Department of Forensic Sciences. We have not received word yet on the status of this appointment.

Status of Cases Report/Comparison

Mr. Richard Burleson, Assistant Director, ACDRS, reported that the status of our case reviews continues to improve. We have reached a new high in both Team participation rate and case review rates. Team participation has improved to 96% with only two teams (Team #17 and #22) being outside the mandatory requirements of our statute. Case completion rate has also reached an all-time high of 89%, which is great, but of course our goal continues to be nothing less than 100%! Several teams were recognized for already completing their reviews for their CY 2004 cases.

New Business –

Infant/Child Death Investigation Training

Three investigators from around the State have been identified to attend the U.S. Department of Justice Child Fatality Investigation Training Courses. The ACDRS will assist these investigators in funding their trip and in exchange the investigators will assist with needed modifications and presentation assistance with the Alabama Infant/Child Death Investigators Training Course.

Suicide Prevention Speakers Bureau Training

Child suicide is continuing as a major problem in Alabama. Suicide has been a major emphasis item within the ACDRS for two years now. In an effort to do even more to eliminate this terrible problem the ACDRS has joined with the Alabama Suicide Prevention Task Force to develop a Speakers Bureau that will be able to talk to various groups around the State. As one part of this effort, the ACDRS has sent two licensed Suicide Counselors to a training course in Washington D.C. with the aim to prepare them to be able to train appropriate Task Force/ACDRS members to address the increasing demand for knowledgeable speakers on these topics in our State.

“Cribs for Kids” Status

The Alabama “Cribs for Kids” Program continues to do well and is garnering state-wide and national attention. The program was developed as a pilot program in August 2005 and has long since proved its value. Not only is the current one-county program ready to expand to other counties within the region, but other communities within our State are lining up to start their own pilot programs.

ATV Safety Program Status

The ACDRS has developed a new safety brochure on the topic of ATV Safety. The new brochure is available to anyone who asks for them and will be sent out soon with a press release and radio Public Service Announcements.

CY 2003 Annual Report Status

The CY 2003 ACDRS Annual Report promises to be the best report we have ever published. It is almost ready for coordination within the ADPH and release to the general public. This year’s report features numerous articles written by ACDRS members about their local community activities. We hope to have the report finalized and sent to the printer in May 2006 for a June 2006 publication and release.

Open Discussion

No new items were proposed or discussed during this period.

Executive Session

Without objection the Team agreed to move to Executive Session.

Return to Open Session

Without objection the Team agreed to return to Open Session.

Next Meeting Scheduled

The next ACDRS State Team meeting is planned for May 18, 2006. Time and location are to be decided.

Adjournment

There being no further items on the agenda, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

RH:tm

Enclosures